



California State Assembly
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Provided to you as a Public Service Announcement
from the California State Legislature.

**Important Phone Numbers and
Other Energy Efficiency Information:**

California Energy Commission

1-800-772-3300

<http://www.energy.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Energy

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Network (EREN)

1-800-DOE-3732 (800-363-3732)

<http://www.eere.energy.gov>

Alliance to Save Energy

Washington, D.C.

(202) 857-0666

<http://www.ase.org>

California Public Utilities Commission

Northern Calif. (415) 703-2782

Southern Calif. (213) 576-7000

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov>

Energy Conservation

*Important
information on how
you can conserve
energy.*



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ASSEMBLYMAN, 13TH DISTRICT

Dear Neighbors:

Due to fraud and corruption, the people of California are paying some of the highest energy prices in the nation.

Results of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) investigation into market manipulation by companies such as Enron proved the prices we paid for long-term energy contracts in 2001 were too high. As a result, rate-payers have been paying the price ever since.

Even though the Legislature and the Governor are working to renegotiate those contracts, as well as to increase supply, the process will take time; meanwhile, we continue to pay higher prices.

Here are a few tips I use to save money on my energy bills. It is amazing how a few simple adjustments can turn into real savings. These 20 Energy Saving Tips for Consumers can help reduce your family's energy costs as well.

If you have any questions about these or other ways to save on energy rates, please feel free to contact my office anytime at 415-557-3013.

As always, it is a pleasure to be of service.

20 Energy Saving Tips for Consumers

- 1 Set your gas or electric heater thermostat at 68 degrees when your home is occupied, and 55 degrees at night or when it's unoccupied. Set the air-conditioner thermostat at 78 degrees or higher, health permitting.
- 2 Close the damper and cover the fireplace when not in use. Try not to use the fireplace and central heating system at the same time. Be sure that any fire has been completely extinguished.
- 3 Turn off portable heaters when the room is unoccupied. Using portable heaters can be costly. Use them only to warm rooms that don't get enough heat or homes without central heating systems.
- 4 Get the heating system checked professionally once a year, and change filters regularly to keep the unit running efficiently.
- 5 If your house is more than 15 years old, check the insulation in the attic and floor. The insulation has most likely settled significantly over time and may need to be brought to current standards. Current standards call for at least R-30 in the attic, R-13 in the walls, and R-19 in the floor.
- 6 Caulk windows, doors and anywhere air leaks in or out. Up to 20 percent of the heat inside a typical house is lost through the windows. Do not caulk around water heaters and furnace exhaust pipes.
- 7 Weatherstrip around windows and doors. Wrap heating and cooling ducts with duct wrap, or use mastic sealant.
- 8 Put an insulating blanket around your water heater.
- 9 Use appliances, such as dishwashers, washing machines, and clothes dryers only when they are full, and preferably before or after the peak hours of 4-8 p.m., when demand for electricity is highest. Be sure to clean your clothes dryer's lint trap after each use.
- 10 Help maintain your refrigerator's efficiency by cleaning the coils at the back or bottom of the unit. Refrigerators usually consume the second largest amount of energy in a home. *(Heating/air conditioning systems consume the largest amount of energy.)*
- 11 Defrost refrigerators and freezers before ice buildup becomes 1/4-inch thick.
- 12 Use compact fluorescent lamps. You can lower your lighting bill by converting to energy-efficient low-wattage compact fluorescent lighting and fixtures.
- 13 Fix defective plumbing or dripping faucets. A single faucet dripping hot water can waste a significant amount of water, which not only increases water bills, but also increases the gas or electric bill for heating the water.
- 14 Wash only full loads in your dishwasher, and use the shortest cycle that will get your dishes clean. If possible, turn off the dishwasher before the drying cycle, open the door and let the dishes dry naturally.
- 15 Plan meals so you can cook and bake several items at once. Preheat as little as possible.
- 16 Close off unused rooms and partially close vents in those rooms to save on heating and air conditioning costs. If you have central heat and air, however, never close off more than half the registers at one time. Equipment can be damaged by trying to force air through too many closed ducts.
- 17 Turn off your air conditioning, and take advantage of natural cooling breezes whenever possible. Use ceiling fans or small fans to help circulate the air in the summer. Moving air makes you feel cooler, so you can set the thermostat at a higher temperature and still feel comfortable.
- 18 If possible, provide shading for the air-conditioning unit's compressor. This can be done with vegetation or some shading device, but make sure it allows for proper air circulation.
- 19 Plant low shrubs near south and west walls to shade them from the sun and help keep your house cool. Check with local nurseries for plants that are drought tolerant so you can reduce water consumption. In areas of wildland fires, make sure you use shrubs that will not cause a fire to jump to your structure.
- 20 Don't block registers, vents or heating units with furniture or drapes; it makes your furnace work harder and use more energy.

Sources: PG&E and California Energy Commission websites.